

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 3 to 15, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a laryngeal mask comprisingthat includes at least one airway tube and a mask portion, saidthe mask portion comprisingincluding a top face and a bottom face, saidthe bottom face comprisingincluding a lumen that communicates with the tube interior, and saidthe top face comprisingincluding a closed transition face; and wherein the mask portion is delimited in its periphery by an inflatable cuff at least on the bottom face. The invention also relates to a method of manufacturing such a laryngeal mask.

~~Moreover, the invention relates to a method of manufacturing a laryngeal mask comprising at least one airway tube and a mask portion, said mask portion comprising a top face and a bottom face, said bottom face comprising a lumen that communicates with the tube interior, and said top face comprising a closed transition face; and wherein the mask portion is delimited in its periphery by an inflatable cuff at least on the bottom face.~~

THE PRIOR ART

Page 2, line 24, insert the following topic heading.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, line 17 to page 7, line 19, replace the paragraphs with the following amended paragraphs.

By provision of a laryngeal mask according to the invention, ~~and as further featured in claim 2~~ it is accomplished that varyingly flexible and rigid properties are imparted to the laryngeal mask in selected sections thereof in response to which mechanical properties are desired. Thus, it is desirable that the cuff is very flexible, and likewise it is desirable that any portions or sections of the cuff can be inflated more than other portions, which is accomplished in that portions of the cuff have a thinner wall thickness than the surrounding sections, while it is desirable that the airway tube as such is more rigid in order for it not to kink, and therefore the airway tube can be configured with a generally greater material thickness. The term inflatable portion is intended to designate those portions that are, during inflation, stretched due to their poor thickness relative to the surrounding sections.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention ~~and as further featured in claim 4~~, convenient outer shapes of the cuff are accomplished with respect to that part of cuff that faces in the same direction as the lumen as well as the part that is optionally situated on top of the top face.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention ~~and as further featured in claim 5~~, a smooth transition between, respectively, the thickness of the airway tube and the wall thickness of the cuff as such is accomplished. Thus, the top face will at all times have a wall thickness larger than the wall thickness of the inflatable cuff and preferably, but not necessarily, it will have a wall thickness smaller than that the airway tube.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention, ~~and as further featured in claim 7~~ a number of properties are accomplished for the cuff, as mentioned above, including bulging of portions of the cuff that will expand more than the rest when, in use, the cuff is inflated.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention, ~~and as further featured in claim 9~~ it is accomplished that the part of the airway passage that is situated opposite the mask portion and is in contact with the teeth of the patient in use is so rigid that there is not risk of the airway tube being bitten apart during use of laryngeal mask and likewise the risk of the tube kinking is eliminated. The rigid tubing can be manufactured from a convenient plastics material, e.g., rigid PVC, and likewise it can be manufactured from a convenient metal alloy; e.g., steel. However, it is preferably manufactured from the same material as the remainder of the laryngeal mask. The rigid tubing may extend all the way from the location on the airway tube where a connecting part (connector) for

providing a connection between an air source is usually arranged and to the location on the airway tube, where the mask portion as such commences, i.e. the rigid tubing may have both a straight course and a curved section. It is noted that conveniently the rigid tubing will have a conical connector at the end that is intended to face away from the patient in use, said connector establishing communication with a respiratory apparatus or an anaesthetic inspiration circuit.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention, ~~and as further featured in claim 10~~ it is accomplished that increased flexibility is imparted to the rigid tubing, whereby the tubing and the airway tube can be bent without kinking, however. For instance, the grooves may be ribbed or they may be configured as threading.

By providing a laryngeal mask according to the invention, ~~and as further featured in claim 11~~ it is accomplished that parts of the airway tube as such become so rigid that the risk of it kinking in use is reduced, while yet it remains bendable. The ribs may be used for an embodiment of the invention in which a rigid tubing is not used in the airway tube, or they can be used in parts of the airway tube that are not provided with a rigid tubing as taught above.

Further details regarding the laryngeal mask ~~will appear from claims 12-17 and~~ are as taught in the following:

Page 8, lines 10 to 16, replace the paragraphs with the following amended paragraphs.

The invention also relates to a method of manufacturing a laryngeal mask ~~and wherein claims 18-26 feature convenient steps of the method.~~

~~Finally, the invention relates to use of the method according to claims 18-26 for the manufacture of a laryngeal mask according to claims 1-17 and as featured in claim 27.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 10, line 9, insert the following topic heading.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page 19, line 22 to page 20, line 2, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

The remaining parts of the walls of the laryngeal mask 1 have essentially the same dimensions as the one shown in Figure 9. Besides, it is noted that the upper and lower values of the third interval 113 are such that the lower limit is larger than the a-value, and the upper limit is smaller than or equal to the d-value. Besides, in those cases when a lining/rigid tubing 114 is arranged within the laryngeal mask, the wall thickness will assume small dimensions in those sections 117 of the airway tube 2 that cover the lining/the rigid tubing. In that case, the airway tube 2 will typically be of a nature that mostly resembles a shroud that is positioned externally of the outer surface of the rigid tubing. In those cases, the thickness of the airway tube will be about 1,51,5 mm in those areas.

Page 22, delete lines 26 to 28.

~~Thus, the laryngeal mask 1' may be a laryngeal mask as featured in claim 28 and may consist of a number of combined parts, or it may be a laryngeal mask as featured in claim 1 and manufactured as featured in claim 18.~~

Page 23, line 29 to page 24, line 2, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

As was described above, the lateral bellows can also be used for an integrally injection-moulded laryngeal mask 1 as ~~featured in claims 1-17, wherein the same advantages are achieved. Likewise, the features that are described in claims 2-11, 13-14 and 16-17 can be used for a mask as featured in claims 28-29.~~

Page 24, lines 11 to 17, replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

According to an embodiment of the invention ~~as described in claim 28, the lateral bellows 12' can, as shown in Figure 13, be manufactured such that, prior to inflation, they are oriented in a direction into the inflatable cuff 9'. This will facilitate arrangement of the laryngeal mask 1'. When the cuff 9' is inflated, the lateral bellows will thus assume a shape as shown in Figure 12. This embodiment may also suitably be used for a laryngeal mask 1 as featured in claim 15.~~